Dr

JESUS *weeping* over his *dead Friend*, and with his *Friends* in their *Mourning*.

A

SERMON

Preached the LORD'S-DAY after the *Funeral* Of the Reverend

Mr. *William Cooper*,

One of the *Paſtors* of the Church in *Brattle-Street*, BOSTON. Who died December 13. 1743. Ætat. 50.

By Dr. *Colman*,

Senior *Paſtor* of ſaid Church.

II. Sam. i. 26. *I am diſtreſſed for thee my Brother! very pleaſant haſt thou been unto me.*

BOSTON, Printed by ROGERS and FOWLE, for J. EDWARDS in Cornhill. 1744.

BRITISH MUSEUM

To the Honourable

JACOB WENDELL, *Esq*;

With the Honoured BRETHREN the COMMITTEE of the *Congregation* meeting in *Brattle-Street, Boston*:

Gentlemen,

AS you have chosen to print the following *Sermon*, and to distribute *Copies* of it to the Families of the *Poor* of the *Flock* at your own Charge; I think my Self obliged to *thank* You in *their* Name, and to do it in this publick manner.

It was not for want of a *Surplus* of the Moneys of the *Congregation* in your Hands; nor because it would not have been a *Pleasure to them* if you had *used* their Money on this Occasion; for *they* have *all* shown Themselves equally hearty *Mourners* under our common Bereavement, and with a ready

open *Hand* and *enlarged* Heart, have more than defray'd the Expences of the *Funeral*.

" *I was a Father to the poor!* ſaid the *Moſt ſuch* of his Day, that upright and *perfect Man* JOB: a more *Amiable* and honourable Word, a more *tender* and endearing, could ſcarce be *put* into a perfect *Character*, nor can ever be *wanting* in it. — Let the *Paſtors* and the *Deacons* in all our *Churches*, and the *Rich* in our Congregations, together *emulate* a Share in this *Character*; diſpenſing *liberally* both in *Spirituals* and *Temporals* as they are reſpectively called by GOD: and HE *that miniſtreth Seed to the Sower, multiply the Seed ſown, and increaſe the Fruits of Righteouſneſs* among us: *Amen.*

I now turn my *Addreſs* to the whole *Church* and *Congregation*; to whom and to their FATHERS I have been miniſtring theſe *forty-four* Years in a poor and *feeble* manner; and have had the returning *Sorrows*, within this Courſe of Years, of *burying* a Congregation; and *now* my dear *Colleague* after them; who alſo has *Served* with me the laſt *twenty-ſeven* Years; and of late has had the whole *Paſtoral Care* (in a manner) devolved on him, under my growing *Infirmities*.

It leads me to call to your *Remembrance* thoſe Words of the *Apoſtle*, II. Cor. iv. 7. *We have this* TREASURE *in* EARTHEN VESSELS *that the* EXCELLENCY *of the* POWER *may be of* GOD *and not of us.* — O what a *Treaſure* had we in that *Earthen Veſſel* which *Death* has lately *broken* and is mouldring into *Duſt*! What a *Treaſure* had we in the Life and *Miniſtry* of your dear *deceaſed Paſtor*? whoſe *Lips* muſt no more ſpeak, nor his *Hands* break the WORD *of Life* unto us! how ſuddenly and *inſenſibly* is the

Silver

Silver Cord loosed, the *golden Bowl broken*, and the *Pitcher at the Fountain!* —— And now his *Death reflects back all the Glory* of the *Light* he gave, and of the *Good* he did among us, upon the BLESSED GOD, who *made* him what he was unto us! made him out of the *Clay*, and put a *Spirit* into him and gave him his *Understanding!* made him a *Vessel of Honour* and for such *Communications* unto us!

Your *Ministers*, tho' but *Vessels of Clay*, yet have their *Treasures* put into them by the GOD *of the Spirits of all Flesh*, out of which (by Divine Help) they are *laying by* against the *First Days of the Weeks*, then liberally to *scatter* among you, according to the *Wants* of your *Souls*: *freely* they receive and freely *give*, to every one his Portion in *due Season*.—— The *Dispensation* of the *Gospel* is this *Treasure*, for the *enriching* of your Souls thro' Time and Eternity: It is a *Treasure* of Knowledge, Grace and Comfort; a Treasure for intrinsic *Worth*, a Treasure for *Variety*; all saving *Truth* and every saving *Grace*, and all *Measures* of Grace attainable, belong to this *Treasury*; and at last it is a Treasure in *Heaven* which faileth not.—— It is a Treasure for *Rarity* and *Secrecy*, "*hid in the Field* and *few there be that seek and find it*; which if a Man does he is *made for Ever*, even tho' he *sell all* that he has to purchase it.

And it had need be a *Treasure* considering the *Price* paid by the SON OF GOD, to purchase the *Gospel* and its *saving* Effects for us! A Treasure is *expended* and not in *vain*; for GOD will have his Treasures *again* from this Earth of ours, in the *Election of his Grace*, the *Millions* that shall be *saved*, and in the eternal *Glories* unto HIMSELF by Them.

But

But *Miniſters* are only *Veſſels*, and but brittle mean and *earthen* ones; by whom it pleaſeth the LORD JESUS in whom *all* FULNESS *dwells*, to *diſtribute* unto his *Churches*: they are *made* what they are, they *differ* a little in *Form* and *Capacities*, ſmaller and greater, for more or leſs *Uſe*; but *all* are for *Communication* to others. Even on *ſpiritual* Accounts, both intellectual and moral, your beſt *Miniſters* are too much *Earthen*; and well may *they* feel themſelves to be but *droſſie Souls*, when the bleſſed St. *Paul*, with all his Treaſures of Knowledge, Faith, Love, Zeal, Devotion, call'd himſelf *carnal*; while he contemplated the *Spirituality* of the Divine *Law* which he was call'd to preach: "*The Law is ſpiritual, but I am carnal.*

Let it not *ſurpriſe* us then to ſee the *earthen Veſſel* which once held great Treaſures, *broken* and turning into common Clay: And while we *mourn* the Breach let it be in *Faith*, that CHRIST will one Day *repair* and raiſe it a *ſpiritual Body*, like to his *own* moſt *glorious*.

When you bury your *Miniſters*, you have the *unſearchable Riches of* CHRIST to live on. With *Him* is the *Reſidue* of the SPIRIT, and *his* Treaſures are inexhauſtible: He raiſes up *other Paſtors* after his own Heart, and puts *like Riches* into them, for the *Supply of his Church* from one Generation to another; and "inſtead of the *Fathers* are the *Children* whom "he makes *Princes* in all the Earth: HE *is the* "*ſame, and his Years have no End*; the *Children of* "*his Servants ſhall continue, and their Seed be eſta-*"*bliſhed before Him.*

Alas! what a *vain Inſtitution* may the *preached Goſpel* ſeem, where it is *not* attended with a convincing,

vincing, regenerating, converting, ſanctifying, comforting *Power and Efficacy!* how *vain* in this Caſe the *Preaching*, and the *Faith* profeſſed vain! What *go* we then forth to *ſee* and *hear?* a *Reed ſhaken with the Wind!* even tho' the BAPTIST himſelf were to preach! —— But how *happy* the *Miniſter* by whom, and happy the *People* to whom, it pleaſes *the* LORD *to ſpeak with a ſtrong Hand?* The EXCELLENCY *of the* POWER preſently appears in a *Divine* EMPIRE *of the Holy* LAW over the *Minds*, *Hearts*, *Conſciences* and Affections of Men! over their *Thoughts*, Imaginations, Deſires, *Wills*, Purpoſes and Reſolutions! This is the *Kingdom of* GOD *within Men*! Souls are *conſcious* to it within themſelves! a POWER which they neither *can*, nor *deſire* any longer to *reſiſt*; but *yeild* to the *Conſtraint* with Thankfulneſs and *Joy!* "*Thy People are willing in the Day of thy Power, in the Beauties of Holineſs.*"! this forms all the *Beauties* of Holineſs at once in the *renewed*, ſubdued Soul! it is the *Life of* GOD reſtored; even the *Image* and Life of the SON OF GOD incarnate; "*I delight to do thy Will, O GOD, yea thy Law is within me!*

Men may *force* one another to do things *againſt* their Will; a *cruel* Power this and unnatural; but to *make* a Soul *willing* to every thing that is *holy*, wiſe and good, this is the *Excellency of Power*! So the SON makes Souls *free*, and they are *free indeed!* they *chuſe* the things that *pleaſe GOD*, they *lay hold* on his *Covenant*, they *ſubſcribe* with Heart and Hand to the LORD! they *love his Word becauſe it is very pure!* they *delight in the Law of GOD after the inward Man!* they *love* HIM *with all their Underſtanding*, Heart and Strength! they love *their own and others Souls* with a like *earneſt* and ſollicitous Regard; for in *Conjunction* with the *eternal*

Glory

Glory of GOD from them, is *their* eternal *Bleſſedneſs* in the Viſion of Him! — Now THIS is the *Empire* of GOD in and over *holy Spirits* for ever and ever! the *Excellency* of this POWER ſhews it to be *of GOD, and not of Man.*

——!

If you have ſeen or *felt* any thing of it under our *Miniſtry*, look not *at us*, either the *living* or the *dead!* but *worſhip GOD!* and own the *Excellency* of the *Goſpel*, as a *Means* in the Hand of the SPIRIT! *Excellent* are the SAVIOUR and SANCTIFIER, the SON and the HOLY GHOST, in their *Offices* and *Benefits*, for our Salvation! *Excellent* alſo in their Place are our *Sabbaths, Ordinances, Church-State* and holy *Fellowſhip*! the *New Teſtament in the Blood of CHRIST*, and the *Sacramental Seals* of it!

How excellent then ſhould CHRIST be to us in his *Perſon, Sufferings, Death, Reſurrection*, and *Interceſſion* for us; *the chiefeſt of ten thouſands, and altogether lovely!* How *vile* are *we* and *miſerable* in our natural and *unrenewed* State? viler than the *Clay* and harder than the *Rock!* How *happy* are the *regenerate*, penitent, broken and *contrite* Hearts, that *tremble* at GOD's Word! to *this Man* will I *look*, ſays the HIGH AND LOFTY ONE, *that inhabits Eternity.* How *diſtinguiſht* are *ſuch* and honour'd by *free Grace!* and how *obliged* to the moſt humble and fervent *Adorations* of it! How happy are the *Miniſters* whom it pleaſes GOD to *uſe* in the *Diſplay* of his excelling Power! and the *People*, the *Churches*, among and upon whom it is diſplay'd! As the bleſſed *Apoſtle* could give *Glory* in the *higheſt*, and ſay, "*He that wrought effectually in Peter to the* "*Circumciſion, the ſame was mighty in me toward* "*the Gentiles*".

And

And how ſhould *Miniſters* and *People* together be *animated* in their *Study* of the *ſacred Oracles*, and *Attention* to the *Doctrines*, *Laws*, and *Motives* of the Goſpel, that they may together *experience* the bleſſed POWER, and reap the ſaving *Benefits* thereof! For *this* let us *wait on our Miniſtry!* let *this* be our *Aim*, End, Deſire, Hope, Expectation in our *aſſembling* together from Sabbath to Sabbath! even with Faith and *Prayer* for a ſaving *Efficacy* upon our Souls! Let us *depend* on the free, almighty *Grace of GOD*, and *aſcribe* all to it! "*My Soul, wait thou only upon GOD, for all my Expectation is from* HIM! Look *off* from *Men* and *Means*, which are only what GOD *makes them*, as to any ſaving *Effects* by or from them. "*Give unto the* LORD *Glory and Strength*, and ſo *bring your Offerings* of Worſhip. "*The Voice of the* LORD *is powerful, and full of Majeſty, and in his Temple let every one ſpeak of his Glory.*

I conclude with that Divine *Supplication* and *Aſcription* to the GOD of all Grace, which is prepared by the HOLY GHOST for *Miniſters* and *People*, thro' all the *ages* of the *Church*;

Epheſ. iii. 14,—— 21. "I bow my Knees to "the FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST; of "whom the *whole Family* in Heaven and Earth "are named; that he would grant you according "to the *Riches of his Glory*, to be ſtrengthned "with *Might* by his SPIRIT in the inner Man; "that CHRIST may *dwell* in your Hearts by Faith; "that ye being *rooted* and grounded in *Love*, may "be able to *comprehend* with all *Saints*, what is "the *Breadth* and *Length*, and *Depth* and *Height*; "and to know the *Love of* CHRIST which paſſeth

"Know-

" Knowledge! that ye may be filled with all the " *Fulneſs of* GOD: —— Now unto HIM that is " *able* to do exceeding abundantly, *above all that we* " *aſk or think*, according to the POWER that work- " eth in us; unto HIM be *Glory* in the *Church* by " CHRIST JESUS thro' out *all Ages*, World with- " out *End*: *Amen.*

Accept, my beloved BRETHREN, the DEACONS and COMMUNICANTS, with the HEADS and *Members* of every *Family* in the Congregation; the *greater* and the *leſs* together; this affectionate *Addreſs* and *farewel* Salutation of your aged dying *Paſtor*; who aſks your daily *Remembrance* of Him at the *Throne of Grace*, and is in all the *Bonds* of *Grace and Gratitude* the *Servant* of your *Faith* and *Helper* of your *Joy*:

Boſton, January 5. 1743,4.

Benjamin Colman.

JESUS *Weeping* Over His *dead Friend.*

JOHN XI. 35.

Jesus wept.

MY *Brethren*, I never had before a like mournful Call to lay theſe *Words* before You, for your Inſtruction, Direction and Conſolation, as at this Day. Never 'till now was this *Houſe*, this *Church* and Congregation ſuch a Place and Aſſembly of *Weepers*, as in the *Week* paſt. Our Eyes poured out Tears to GOD for the Life of my dear *Colleague*, your deſervedly moſt beloved *Paſtor*; that by the Will of God it might have been prolonged and continued to *us*, to the *Town* and *Land*; for an Increaſe of the richeſt ſpiritual *Bleſſings* to us and them. Our kind *Brethren* and Neighbours, *Miniſters* and Churches came *flowing* together to us,

to

to *weep* before and unto the LORD *our* GOD with us and for us, that the *Cup* might have *paſſed* away from us, that we might not have been called to drink it; and that the *dear Family* might not have had their *Head* and *Father*, and ſuch a one, ſo ſuddenly taken from them; nor yet the Families of the *Flock* beheaded with them! but the *Cup* the Lord JESUS, the *Everlaſting Father*, the Great HEAD of the Church, gives us to drink, ſhall we not drink it? More eſpecially when we remember how *He* himſelf has *wept* and *bled* for us; which my *Text* and *Context* now brings to your *pure* Minds and affected Hearts by Way of *Remembrance*; that we may learn of CHRIST how to ſorrow after a *godly Sort*, with a *Faith and Love* which is in *Him* and from Him; and with a *Repentance unto Salvation* never to be repented of. For if *Jeſus wept* in the Days of his Fleſh, bearing our Griefs and carrying our Sorrows, was it not to *ſanctify* the Sorrows of the *Members* of his *Body*, the Church, through all Ages and Places of the World? And to *teach* them when and how to *weep* for themſelves and with one another; that they may be comforted and *edified together*, by their mutual Faith and Love.

With this holy *View* and Hope I return to my *Text*, which conſiſts but of *two* Words, and is I ſuppoſe the *ſhorteſt* Verſe in the *Bible*; but as *full* of Senſe, as *copious* a Subject for our pious Meditation and ſolemn Inſtruction, as any one in the *New-Teſtament*: more eſpecially in the Day of our own *bitter* Grief, and *godly* ſorrowing over our *dead*.

Jeſus wept. — The laſt Time I ſpake to you, I exhibited your *Lord* and *Saviour* to you (as I could) in

in the Glory of the *Lord our Healer*, "*Eneas*, JESUS CHRIST *maketh thee whole!* We were then looking to our *Lord Jeſus* that he would have pleas'd to heal his Servant *Cooper*; to have only ſpoken the *Word* and *rebuked* the *lethargic Symptoms*, of but a *few hours* date; as by the Mouth of *Peter* he releas'd *Eneas* from the *deadly Palſie* of *eight years* ſtanding.---The *Lord* was then with us to *hear*, tho' not to heal; and the *Tears* of that ſolemn Day are in his *Bottle*.---And now I repreſent *Him* to you again as *preſent* with us and *weeping*; I mean with *them* that are weeping *to Him*, *even to Him*: as the *Siſters of Lazarus* were doing, when in my *Text* he came to them in their *Tears*, after the *Funeral* of their *Brother* was over.

O my *Hearers*! that we could now *all* by Faith *ſee* Him preſent, with an *Eye* of Concern for us! O you that are *Believers* in him may he thus *manifeſt himſelf* to you, *ſo as not to the World*! look *up* and realize Him looking down on his *Friends* in mourning.---Was not our Mr. *Cooper* one of *them*, as well as *Lazarus*! the LORD gives me Confidence to ſay, "*he was*! and did not the *Lord* weep and bleed for *him*? yes for *him* among the Number of his *choſen* and called and ſaved: And can we *weep* while we *realize* this? And that with a Faith and Love which as to *him* wipes away the Tears, although we weep on for our *Selves* and our *Children*!

But I muſt again return to my *Text*, --- from one *Tranſport* and another; now of *Sorrow* and then of *Joy*, which by Turns carry me on and off; as the Flame catches at the ſmoking Brand and flies off again.

JESUS *wept*: But as *Hazael* the *Syrian*, beheld the Tears of the *Man of God Eliſha*, and aſked him,

"*Why*

" *Why weepeth my Lord* ? So let us now look into the more ſpecial Reaſon of the flowing Tears of our *Lord Jeſus* at the Houſe of *Martha* and *Mary*. The whole *Chapter* is full of this : " *Lazarus*, the *Friend*, whom he *loved*, was *dead*, and *buried* ! The *Siſters* of the deceaſed, *whom* he alſo loved were before him in their *Mourning* and great Diſtreſs. *They* had ſaid many *moving* Words to Him, and he many *precious* Words to them : *Mary*, as ſoon as ſhe ſaw him, fell down at his *Feet*, ſaying, " *Lord, if thou had'ſt been here, my Brother had not died* ?—— *Now when Jeſus ſaw her weeping*, and the *Jews* alſo weeping that came with her, *he groaned in Spirit, and was troubled*, and aſked " where they had *laid him* ? And in his Way to the *Grave of Lazarus* it was he *wept*.

Some have been ready to fall in with *Jerom's Note* upon my Text, " That *Chriſt* wept in *Compaſſion* to *Lazarus* ‖, whom he was now going to *recall* into a *ſinful* troubleſome World. *Chriſt*, ſays he, did not weep *our* Tears ; he mourn'd over *Lazarus*, not becauſe *dead*, but becauſe now to be *bro't to Life* again : But I drop this as a *ſingular* Strain, though it afford us a very profitable Reflection.

Some again have been ready to think that our *Lord wept, groaned in Spirit and was troubled* to ſhew himſelf *diſpleaſed at the inordinate Grief* of thoſe that were about him : When he ſaw their *Weeping*, the *Siſters* weeping and the *Jews* weeping, he was *troubled* at it ; as in Mark v. 39. *Why make ye this Ado and Weep* ? There ſhould not be this *Degree* of Sorrow over a *Saint's* Remains, whoſe Spirit is in *Heaven* ; at Reſt, in Glory.—But this ſeems not to

‖ Mr. *Burkit*.

be

be the Meaning of our Lord's Tears or *Groans* at this Time.

And yet as the *Greek Words* v. 33. *he groaned in the Spirit* properly ſignify to lament or groan with *Anger* and *Indignation*,† we may ſuppoſe our LORD was now in Part thus affected at the "*Unbelief* and "*Hardneſs* of the Hearts of thoſe weeping *Jews*, "who while they ſhewed ſo much *Humanity* and "Tenderneſs to their grieving Neighbours, yet had "no Senſe of their *cruel Enmity* to Himſelf, nor of "the *Miſeries* they were bringing on themſelves "thereby.——He wept in Compaſſion to the *obſti-*"*nate Jews*,* whoſe final *Impenitence* he foreſaw, "and how much the Guilt of it would be *aggra-*"*vated*, in Conſequence of their being Spectators of "ſuch a *Miracle*.

And there can be no Doubt at all, but that our LORD at this Time *groaned* in Spirit and was *troubled*, in a deep *Reſentment* of the calamitous *State* of human Life by Reaſon of *Death*, and the *Flood* of Affliction which *drowns* the Earth from Age to Age on this Account. The LORD groan'd as being *burthen'd* under the Preſſure of that *Evil* and Sorrow which Sin has brought upon the Children of Men, by bringing Death upon them. For was it not the *Groaning of the Creature for Deliverance from* this *Bondage of Corruption* which had brought Him down from Heaven? and well then might his *Eyes* and Ears now affect his holy *Heart*, and draw from him both *Groans* and *Tears*.

Moreover he *bare* our Griefs, and *carried* our Sorrows, and might well *weep* under them, for they lay

† Dr. *Guyſe* in Loc. * So Dr. *Doddridge*.

heavy

heavy on him; and he might well *groan* in Spirit and be *troubled*.

But what is moſt plain from the whole *Context* is, that *Chriſt* here wept to expreſs his ſincere and great *Sympathy* with his dear Friends in Sorrow. There was not only a profeſſed *Friendſhip*, but a real Love betwixt the LORD and this *bereaved Family*: He found 'em all in *Tears* upon a *juſt* and fitting Occaſion, and in a *ſuitable* Manner and Degree, and he wept with them. Not only had he *Compaſſion* on them, as on the Widow of *Naim*, as ſhe follow'd her *Son* to the Grave; but his *Bowels* were here *troubled* for his near *Acquaintance* in Diſtreſs.

He whom the LORD *loved* lay dead, and thoſe whom he loved were *mourning* over their Dead, and here were the *ſounding of his Bowels*. This Senſe the *Jews* put upon his *Sighs* and Tears; they ſaid "Lo! *how he loved him!*

And to be ſure our *Lord* wept for an *Example* to us, to teach us how to weep *with them that weep*! to recommend to us a *tender* and compaſſionate Diſpoſition; to teach us to *ſympathiſe* with our Friends in Sorrow, and to mourn the Death of our dear and godly Friends. We muſt *go and do likewiſe*. "They that truly *love* their Friends (ſays Mr. *Henry*) will *ſhare* with them in their Joys and Griefs; for what is *Friendſhip* but a Communication of Affections.

The Tears of *Chriſt* were from no Degree of *Weakneſs* or Imperfection, nor in any *Exceſs*; all that he did was *perfect*. The Affections and Paſſions which he felt and expreſſed were always innocent and holy: they never got the *Maſtery* of Him, never ran away with

with him; he always *govern'd* them and had them in perfect Subjection: his *Love*, his *Anger*, Sorrow or Joy were *never* immoderate or intemperate. He troubled *Himself*! ſo the *Greek* is, and it intimates (ſay one *Expoſitor* and another) the Command he had of his Affections, the *Poſſeſſion* of his own Soul: "His *Paſſions* roſe by his Will and Choice, to what *Height* was proper and fitting; and they were calm'd at his Pleaſure.——As the *Winds and Seas* obey'd him, ſo were his holy Affections in a perfect Obedience to his holy *Mind*. We may ſay on *this* Account as well as *that*, "*What Manner of Man* was this! in whom all was *pure* and holy! Says One, "Like the ſhaking of *pure* Water in a *chriſtal* Glaſs, which ſtill remains *clear*. There's *Dirt* and Mud at the Bottom with *us*, and when we are ſhaken it preſently flies *up* and is ſeen in us; but when the *Tempter* came and tried *Chriſt*, he found *nothing*, no not a *Mote* in him.

He *troubled himſelf*: "He had all our humane "Paſſions or Affections; but in a perfect *Command*; "they were never *up* (ſays Mr. *Henry*) but when he "call'd 'em up himſelf! *Others* could not trouble "him any further than he *ſaw Cauſe*, and was pleaſed "to trouble *himſelf*. "He *compoſed* himſelf to Trou-"ble, and was never diſcompos'd, or put into *Diſ-"order* by it. He was *voluntary* in his Paſſion and "Compaſſion: He had Power over his *Grief*, "as he had over his *Life*, to take or leave it, to "*lay it down* or raiſe it as he would.

I will only add, The LORD JESUS was in all Things made *like to us*, but *without Sin*. He was neceſſarily ſubject to humane *Paſſions*, by taking on him humane *Nature*; but ſo as to be always ſubject to *Reaſon* and *Grace*, which were ever in Power and

Rule within him.——As *Calvin* ſays, " the *Son of God* by taking upon Him *our* Nature, did alſo *freely* put on our Affections: Only, whereas our Paſſions are become *ſinful*, irregular and immoderate, there never was any Thing of this in *Chriſt*: No Paſſion in Him ever exceeded the due Bound, or was at all exerciſed but upon a juſt and reaſonable Cauſe: The *firſt Adam* was *created* holy and perfect, but the *ſecond Adam liv'd ſo.*

I return now to take a more *particular* Account 1. Of the *Thing* here recorded of our LORD JESUS, that he *wept*. 2. Of the *Occaſion*, his *Sympathy* with his Friends in their lawful and *pious* Sorrow over their *Dead.*

And *firſt* I ſhall obſerve, that our LORD JESUS while here on Earth, did on one Occaſion and another *weep* or ſhed Tears: *Secondly* that he wept with *his bereaved Friends* in their *Mourning* over their *Dead.*

I. Our LORD JESUS, when he was here on Earth, did upon one Occaſion and another *weep* or ſhed *Tears.* This was not the only *Time*, nor *Death* the only Occaſion upon which he wept. We find him in Tears often. It may be very profitable and inſtructive to us to obſerve the *Reaſons* of our SAVIOUR'S *weeping* at one Time and another. We may be ſure that *Tears* were made for ſuch Occaſions; and that it is not only *lawful* but a *Duty* then to weep. Whom ſhould we learn of, and imitate, but *Him?*

Chriſt wept for the *Sins* of Men. He had no Sin of his *own* to weep for; he wept for *ours*: The Sins of *others* grieved him to the Heart, and drew Tears

Tears from him. We read in *Mark* iii. 5. of his looking about with *Anger* upon an *Aſſembly* or Congregation, being *grieved* for the *Hardneſs* and Blindneſs of their Hearts: They were wickedly, ignorantly or maliciouſly *watching him*, whether he would heal a poor *wither'd Hand* upon the *Sabbath Day* that they might *accuſe him!* His Grief at this their Ignorance or Perverſeneſs was from his Divine *Goodneſs* and Compaſſion. Their Hearts were *hardned* indeed, whom neither the *Miſery* of their poor Neighbour could move, nor yet the *Mercy* of Chriſt to him. He pitied the Sinners, while he had Indignation at their Sin. "His Anger and Grief, un-
"der this juſt and great Provocation, was without
"the leaſt Perturbation in him; but it teaches us to
"mourn the *Hardneſs of Heart* we feel within our-
"ſelves, or ſee in others.

Again our LORD *wept* as he entred the City *Jeruſalem* in his humble *Triumph*, Luke xix. 41. *And when he was come near, he beheld the City and wept over it.* He wept firſt for their *Sin* and Obſtinacy in *rejecting* and murdering him; (this is the *Heir*, come let us *kill him*) and then for the Deſtruction and *Ruin* which they were bringing on themſelves. Sinful Places and Perſons are to be *wept* over, and a gracious tender Spirit is ready to do it. The LORD JESUS knew that now, within a few Days, they would ſhed his *Blood*, and fill up the *Meaſure* of their Sin, and he wept over 'em. It was not for *Himſelf*, for he was now going *in State* unto his *Croſs*; but for *them* he *wept* who with *wicked Hands* would quickly crucify and ſlay him. Let us learn of our bleſſed LORD to grieve for our *own* and *others* Sins, and *moſt* for our *own*, as committed againſt *him*, feeling the *Plague of our own Heart*, and looking to Him as *pierced* by us. So *Peter* went out

and

and wept *bitterly*, when *Chriſt* caſt a compaſſionate *Eye* upon him. The Lord look on us, and ſet us a ſorrowing to Repentance!——*David* in the Spirit of *Chriſt*, and as his *Type* tells us, "*I beheld Tranſgreſſors and was grieved*; and the *Mark* of Chriſt is ſet on them that *ſigh and cry* for the Iniquity of the Places where they live. Ezek. ix. 4. The gracious King *Joſiah* ſhone on the Throne of *Iſrael* in this holy *tender* Spirit of Penitence; "*he humbled himſelf, and rent his Cloathes, and wept before* GOD, as he read in the *Book of the Law*, and ſaw the *Wrath* that was ready to fall upon his People: 2 Chron. xxxiv. 27.

The *Reaſon* which it pleaſed our LORD JESUS to give for his falling *Tears* as he beheld the *City*, was this——"*For the Days ſhall come upon thee, when thine Enemies ſhall caſt a Trench about thee, and lay thee even with the Ground, and thy Children within thee.* In this the weeping Prophet *Jeremiah* was the *Type of* JESUS: He lamented the *firſt* Deſolation of *Jeruſalem*, *Chriſt the ſecond.* What a *Wiſh* was that of the broken-hearted *Prophet*? *O that my Head were Waters, and my Eyes a Fountain of Tears, that I might weep day and night, for the Slain of the Daughter of my People!* He gave himſelf a full *Vent* in his Book of *Lamentations*: Chap. i. 16. "*For theſe things I weep, and my Eye runneth down with Water, my Children are deſolate and the Enemy hath prevailed!*——It it *hardneſs* of Heart not to grieve, when God afflicts and corrects: Jer. v. 3. *I have ſtricken them, but they have not grieved, they have made their Heart* hard *as a Rock.*

Again, Chriſt *wept* under the *Imputation of Sin* to him. *Our Sins* were reckon'd to him, *laid on him*: He was *made* Sin for us, was *dealt* with as if he had been

been a Sinner. " He was wounded for *our* Tranſgreſſions, and bruiſed for our Iniquity; it pleaſed the Lord to bruiſe him and put him to *Grief*. Iſa. liii. Now under this Imputation of *Sin* to him our LORD *poured forth ſtrong Crying and Tears*. Heb. v. 7. He did ſo in his *Agony*: It was an exceeding *Sorrow* to the holy Soul of *Chriſt* to be *made Sin*: the Thing moſt *odious* and accurſed to him! It made him, *exceeding* ſorrowful, even unto *Death*. — How then ſhould we mourn under the *Guilt* and Conſcience of Sin? *All we like Sheep ran aſtray, and the LORD has laid on Him the Iniquity of us all.*

Our LORD wept in *Prayer* to GOD: He *poured out Prayers and Supplications, with ſtrong Crying and Tears*: When He pray'd ſo *fervently* in the *Garden*, they were not *dry* Prayers. The gracious *Affections* of the Soul ſhould be in a lively Exerciſe in *Prayer*, and every Affection may at Times produce *Tears*; as of Fear and Grief and Shame, ſo of Love, Deſire and Joy.—*Job* pray'd and wept in his Affliction; " *My Eye poureth out Tears to God*: *Hannah* pray'd to the LORD and *wept ſore*: *David* pleads his Tears with GOD, " *Hold not thy Peace at my Tears*: And God's Anſwer to *Hezekiah* was, " *I have heard thy Prayers, I have ſeen thy Tears.* It is alſo the Direction and Promiſe of God to his People, Jer. xxxi. 9. " They ſhall *come with weeping and with Supplication*. The Soul it ſelf is ſometimes *poured out* in Prayer, no wonder then if it *flow out* in Tears: Zech. xii. 10. " I will *pour out* on the " Houſe of *David*, and on the Inhabitants of *Jeru-* " *ſalem*, the Spirit of Grace and Supplication; and " they ſhall *look* upon Him whom they have *pierced* " and *mourn*; as he that mourneth for an *only Son*, " and that is in *Bitterneſs* for a *Firſt-born*. Is it not

in

in *Tears*, and *Floods* of them, that *this* Grief is vented by the tender *Parent* ?

Finally, Our LORD CHRIST wept as well as *bled* in Way of *Atonement* and *Satisfaction* for the Sins of his People. Not that his *Tears* without *Blood* could have *atoned* for Sin : It was neceſſary that the *Meſſiah* ſhould *die*, and be *cut off* ; without the ſhedding of Blood there could be no Remiſſion : Heb. ix. 22. *Life* muſt go for Life, the Life of the *Surety* for the Life of the *Criminal* : We are redeemed by his *Blood*, as of a *Lamb* without *Blemiſh* : A Body and Soul were prepared by the HOLY GHOST for an Offering and *Sacrifice* to GOD of a ſweet Savour : *He made his Soul an Offering* : He was going to his *Croſs* when he wept in my Text ; There he was to *bear* our Sins in his *Body* on the *Tree* ; they *pierced* his Hands and Feet : Then was his *Soul ſorrowful*, and what did he *ſay* ? *My GOD, my GOD*, why haſt *thou forſaken me* !—GOD put his *Tears* and *Blood* into one *Bottle* ; are they not in his *Book* ? The LAMB is worthy that was *ſlain* ; worthy to take the *Book* and to open the Seals thereof !—Learn O *Believer*, how to prize and improve the ineſtimable Tears of thy SAVIOUR ! He pray'd with *ſtrong Cryings* and was *heard* ! His Blood ſtill *cries*, and is heard for *ever* ! For he ever liveth to make *Interceſſion*. O how ſhould *You* believe, and love, and *weep and pray*, as the ever holy and alwiſe Providence of GOD calls you ! and be *heard* for *Chriſt's* Sake.

We have thus ſeen how our LORD often *wept* upon one Occaſion and another : But there is yet *one* behind, and to be nam'd by it ſelf, which is that in my *Text*, and is to be conſidered by itſelf.

II. Our

II. Our LORD JESUS *wept with his Friends in their Sorrows*, and in their *mourning over their dead*, from a *true and tender Sympathy with them.* He *viſited* and *comforted* them and mixed his *Tears* with theirs. In their Diſtreſs they *ſent* to him, and his Love and *Pity* brought him to them in his *own* Time. — When *Lazarus* was taken *ſick*, the *Siſters* ſent to him, in Words (the *beſt* that could be) to bring him, ſpeedily to them: when he was *dead* CHRIST ſaid, "*our Friend Lazarus ſleepeth, but I go that I may awake him*: When he ſaw the dear *Family* all in Tears, and the Neighbours weeping with them, he *wept* likewiſe and *groaned* in Spirit: It was becauſe he *loved* them: *ſee*, ſaid the *Jews*, ſee *how he loved* them! again he *groaned in himſelf* and came to the *Grave*.

His *Tears* ſhewed him to be a *true Man*, and a true *Friend*; a *good* Man and a *tender* Friend; a Friend in *need*, which is a Friend *indeed*. Prov. xvii. 17. *A Friend loveth at all Times, and a Brother is born for Adverſity*. CHRIST is the Friend that loves at all times, and the Brother born for the Help and Comfort of his Brethren in all their Adverſities.—He is the *repenting* Sinner's Friend, the *ſorrowful* Souls Comforter: Surely *he bears their Grief*, and by his Sorrows *they* have Comfort.

It was *that Mary* which *anointed the* LORD *with Ointment* moſt precious, and *wiped his Feet with her Hair*, with whom our Lord here *wept*: She did this againſt his *Burial*, Chap. xii. 7. So ſhe returned to our *Lord* her Tears of *Gratitude*, Faith and Love, Humiliation and Repentance, for *his* Tears of Grace and *Sympathy*. "The *Perfume* of that Ointment was a fit Emblem of the *ſweet Odour* of Chriſt's approaching Death and *Sacrifice*, and of the *Graces of the Spirit*

which ſhould be *ſhed abroad* in Conſequence thereof.—— *Chriſt* and Believers are *conſtant* Friends; whom he loves he loves to the *End*, and they that truly love him will do it to the *Death*. Believers *change* their outward Condition often while in this World, but not their Spiritual State; their Union to Chriſt and Intereſt in Him abides; for *He* is the *ſame* to them and changes not.

In particular He is the *Mourners* Friend: *the Spirit of the* LORD *has anointed him to preach good Tydings to the meek, to bind up the broken in Heart, to give unto them that mourn in Zion Beauty for Aſhes, the Oyl of Joy for Mourning, and the Garment of Praiſe for the Spirit of Heavineſs.* Iſa. lxi. *Such* was CHRIST in his Miniſtry on Earth! he bleſſed the *Meek*, the *Mourners* and the *poor in Spirit*; he *revived* the Spirit of the *humble* and the Hearts of the *contrite ones*. The *Chapter* wherein my *Text* is, is exceeding *conſolatory* to the bereaved; and the following *Chapters* more abundantly ſo to the *troubled in Heart*! ——"Ye believe in *God*, believe alſo in *me*: in "my Father's Houſe are many *Manſions*, I go to "*prepare* a Place for you! and I will pray the *Father* "and he will give you another *Comforter*, to *abide* "with you for ever.

Such was the *Language* of his *Tears* in my Text, and now let us *enquire*,——"*Why* did our dear LORD pleaſe to *weep* here on Earth, on one *Occaſion* and another? and particularly with his *godly Friends* in their *Mourning* over their dead? I anſwer

1. Was it not to ſhow himſelf a *true Man*? and that both in Soul and Body he was made *like* to us, and as *one* with us? that he had the proper *humane* Affection of *Grief* in his Soul, and that it

ſhewed

ſhewed it ſelf in Him as in us, by *Tears* in his Eyes: For as much then as the *Children* are Fleſh and Blood, and wont *thus* to mourn; He alſo himſelf took part of the ſame; that it might be ſeen he was truly a Son of *Adam*, a Son of *Abraham*, a Son of *David*, and *the Son of Man*: his Tears, running from his Eyes did ſhew him to be ſo; for to *weep* is proper to *Man* only. —— *Angels* have no Tears, and the Creatures *below* us do not properly weep; but the Sons and Daughters of *Men* are *born* in Tears and *buried* with Tears; and they weep more or leſs from their Birth to the Grave, Exod. ii. 6. *And behold the Babe wept.* —— If our *Lord* had not ſometimes *wept* he had not ſo much appeared to be *of the Seed of David according to the Fleſh.* He was alſo now going to ſhew Himſelf to be the *Son of* God by raiſing *Lazarus* from the Dead; But in his Way to the *Grave* he would firſt ſhew himſelf to be the *Son of Man* by weeping. "He ſea-"ſonably gave this Proof of his *Humanity*, as he "was going to ſhow and prove his *Divinity*.

2. Our Lord's *Tears* were a Part of the Fulfilment of *Prophecies* concerning him; that he ſhould be *a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with Grief.* It anſwers to the whole Strain of the xxii. *Pſalm*, and the liii. of *Iſaiah*. We read of his *Sorrows* often in the Propheſies of the *Old Teſtament*, and never of his *Laughing* thro' the holy *Goſpels*. We read of his *rejoicing in Spirit*, but that might be even in the midſt of *Tears*; for ſo he gave *Thanks* at the Grave of *Lazarus*, v. 41. *Jeſus lift up his Eyes* (his *weeping* Eyes) *and ſaid*, "*Father I thank* "*thee that thou haſt heard me; and I know that thou* "*heareſt me always.* *David* was a *Type* of *Chriſt* in the Day when he was *rejected of Men*, he went *weeping*

ing thro' the very *ſame Way* where *Chriſt wept* when he *beheld the City.*

3. Our Lord's *weeping* is a Repreſentation of Him to us as our *compaſſionate* and merciful *High-Prieſt*: according to the *Apoſtle's* Words, *Hebr.* ii. 17, 18. *Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like to his Brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful High-Prieſt in things pertaining to God, to make Reconciliation for the Sins of his People; for in that he hath ſuffered, being tempted, he is able to ſuccour them that are tempted.* Which Words, becauſe of their Importance to us are in effect ſaid over again to us, Chap. iv. 15. *For we have not an High-Prieſt which cannot be touched with the feeling of our Infirmities, but was in all Points tempted* (or tried) *as we are, yet without Sin.* In the ſame *Epiſtle* we moreover read, that *He can have Compaſſion, for that He himſelf alſo was compaſſed with Infirmity.* Thus from the very *Tears* and Compaſſion of *Chriſt* the holy *Scriptures* direct our *Faith* to him, and draw forth our *Love* to him as our proper *Saviour*, and the one *Mediator* between GOD *and Man*, the *Man* CHRIST JESUS.

4. The Tears of *Chriſt* at the Grave of *Lazarus*, teach us to *mourn over our dead*, ſhould *comfort pious Mourners* and eaſe their Grief, and *direct* us to *weep with one another*, in hearty *Sympathy*, *under Bereavements.*—— I have ſaid *three* Things here which are very much the proper *Application* of the preſent Diſcourſe.

1. To be ſure our *Lord's Tears* do countenance our *mournful Tears over our dead.* *Chriſt* would not have wept with the *Siſters* if their weeping had not been *lawful* and decent. It is not only *humane* but

religious

religious to weep under ſuch Providences. GOD has *made* us to weep on ſuch Occaſions, the Conſtitution of our *Nature* is for it, and his Word directs to it. In the Days of our *Bereavement* the *Lord of Hoſts*, the *God of the Spirits* of all Fleſh, *calls us to weeping*; "*be afflicted and mourn and weep.* The Practice of the *Saints* on holy Record ſhows their Judgment in the Caſe, in the ſtrongeſt Manner. *Abraham*, the Father of the *faithful* mourn'd over *Sarah*, and aroſe from weeping over her to purchaſe a *Burying-place* for himſelf and her. *Jacob* and *David* were *great* Mourners in their *Bereavements*, and even exceeded. It was a *ſtrange* thing in *Iſrael*, that the *Prophet* was *forbid* to weep or mourn, when *God* took away the *Deſire of his Eyes with a Stroke*: He was a *Sign* that Day to *Iſrael*, the Caſe was extraordinary, and not meant as a Precept or Rule to others: A ſtrange *Word of the Lord* was it to a *Son of Man*, *to forbear to cry*, and to make *no Mourning for the dead.* —— Only let us take Care that our Grief be *calm* and moderate, holy and gracious, under ſuch Diſpenſations of Divine Providence. In *Rama* there was the *Voice of Lamentation*, *Weeping and great Mourning*, *Rachel weeping for her Children!* but it was carry'd *too far* when ſhe *would not* be comforted becauſe *they were not*. In like Exceſs her dear *Huſband* had long before wept for his *Joſeph*, when he tho't him *rent to Pieces* by ſome evil *Beaſts!* and yet the *Daughters of Rachel* in the Day of *Rama* had a much ſorer Cauſe of Mourning, when a much more *bloody Beaſt*, *Herod*, butcher'd their many Children before their Eyes. Our *Lord* has taught us, not to make *ado* in weeping, in the Houſe of Mourning: The *leſs* we can ſorrow as *without Hope*, the more *ſure* and certain our Hope is of a *bleſſed Reſurrection*, with reſpect to our *dead* and our *ſelves*, the *more* blameable is the *ado* in ſorrowing

rowing. We are inſtructed therefore by the HOLY GHOST, and requir'd *to weep as tho' we wept not*, in this paſſing World, I. Cor. vii. 30. Let there be as little *Diſorder* or *Exceſs* in our Grief as may be.

2. Our *Lord's Tears* ſhould *comfort pious Mourners*, and help to *dry up* their Tears. We *viſit* our ſorrowful Friends, and *weep with them*, to *eaſe* and *aſſwage* their Grief if we can. The *Law* to us is a moſt *kind* and gracious one; "*bear ye one ano-*"*thers Burdens, and fulfil the Law of Love.* For this End *Chriſt* viſited the *Siſters*, and ſaid to 'em, "*your Brother ſhall riſe again! I am the Reſurrection* "*and the Life: He that believeth in me, tho' he be* "*dead yet ſhall he live! believeſt thou this? they ſay* "*unto him, yea Lord.*

When the good *Friends of Job* heard of the *Death of his Children*, and of his *other* great Sorrows, they came together to *mourn* with him and to *comfort* him. The Religion of *Sympathy* has been the ſame in all *Ages* among the People of God. All that becomes the *Humane Nature* receives a high *Luſtre* and Exaltation in the *Doctrines*, *Laws* and *Examples* of the Divine *Grace*, given us in the *holy Word*; and the more becauſe the *Infirmities* of Nature, and even of *Grace* in the *Fleſh luſting againſt the Spirit*, are not *omitted* amidſt the *Eminencies* of Faith, Patience, *&c.* which we find on *holy Record.*

The Uſe of *Sympathy* is to *ſhare* the Grief, which *helps* the Patient in bearing, and inſenſibly carries *away* a Part. But *we* are poor *Comforters* to one another; and ſometimes we do but *irritate* and *vex* the Soul of the righteous; as *Job's* dear Friends did him; and yet meant well, for his *beſt* good. CHRIST

is

is the *Friend* and *Comforter!* "*This is my Beloved and this is my Friend,* might the Sisters of *Lazarus* well say! and they did in effect say it! O how they flew to him *and fell at his Feet!* one gracious Look, Word, Visit of *his* is Support and Consolation indeed! He has *said,* and none besides Him can *say it* to a Soul, and that effectually; *say and do it;* —— *I will see you again, and your Heart shall rejoice, and your Joy no Man taketh from you.*

Well did *Martha,* as soon as she heard that Jesus *was coming, to go and meet him!* and well did *Mary* to follow her *quickly.* The *Jews tho't* that she was going to the *Grave* to weep there! No, she went to Him who is the *Resurrection and the Life,* for his Divine *Grace,* Teaching and *Comfort:* And so must *we* do in our Sorrows; and Christ *is with us* if we will but *go to him:* He *comes* to us in his *Ordinances;* he comes to direct and Support us in and by his *Word, Sacraments and Prayer;* he *meets* alike him that *rejoices* and him that *mourns* after a godly Sort; *working Righteousness and remembring him in his Ways;* and this is their Comfort in their *Affliction* if his Word does *quicken* them: He teaches by his *Spirit,* from his Word, how, we must *improve* and *bear* our Sorrows, glorify *him* under 'em and get the saving *Good* of them. —— The *Shunamite* in her Sorrows went to the *Servant,* nor did she go in *vain;* go *thou* to the Lord himself! use his *Ministers,* use thy godly *Friends,* but look *thro'* 'em and *above* 'em unto Jesus! behold a *greater than Elisha* is here! his and thy Lord and Master! he will graciously receive thee *at his Foot* in thy greatest and most *bitter* Griefs, and not Suffer thee *to be put away.* II. Kings iv. 27.

3. *Christ*

3. *Chriſt's weeping with his pious Friends in their Mourning* teaches and commands us to *ſympathize and weep* with one another under *Bereavements*. His Example and his Law is *one*, "*Weep with them that* "*Weep*, Rom. xii. 15. This is his *Law of Love*, and we muſt *fulfill* it; *bear ye one anothers Burthens*, Gal. vi. 2. We are not like *Chriſt* if we are not *tender-hearted*. This is *pure* Religion in his Sight, to *viſit the Fatherleſs and Widow* in their Affliction. This was the ancient Religion of *Job*, "*did I not* "*weep with him that was in trouble?* And his *Friends* return'd him this *Kindneſs of God*. The *Jews* acted as good *Neighbours* and true *Iſraelites* in viſiting *Martha and Mary*. They had much to ſay to 'em of the *Piety* of *Lazarus*, and the Reaſon they had to believe it was well with him! much had they to ſay of the *Sovereignty*, Holineſs, Wiſdom and Goodneſs of GOD, in his ordering all Events; but much more of his *Covenant Mercy* and Faithfulneſs to them that *fear* him: They had much to ſay of *this World*, its Vanity and Emptineſs; and more of the *Heavenly* World, its Fulneſs and Eternity! they had much to ſay for the *quieting* their grieving Friends, and more for their *quickning* to an earneſt and diligent Preparation for their *own* Death! And if they knew JESUS, and his *Love* to the Family, and their *Intereſt* in Him, they had enough to do *only* to ſpeak to them of *Him*; to whom they had *ſent* and for whom they were *looking* out.

So let us be comforting one another with the *Comforts* provided for us in *Chriſt* and in his *Word*; and let us know from *Chriſt's Weeping* that Sorrow is *better* than Laughter, for by the *Sadneſs* of the *Countenance* the *Heart* is made better: The Heart of the *Wiſe* is in the Houſe of *Mourning*; there was the Heart of *Chriſt*. They that are like him will

be

be ſerious in a dying World, *ſowing to the Spirit* in Tears; going forth weeping and bearing *precious Seed.*— And no Wonder that *Believers* are often in Tears, ſince Chriſt was ſo: It is enough for the *Diſciple* that he be as his *Lord*: John xvi. 20. *Verily, verily I ſay unto you, ye ſhall weep and lament,* while the *World* is rejoicing.

Only ſee to it, O *Mourner*, that *Chriſt be thy Friend*, and thou a Friend to *Him!* If you are *reconciled to GOD* through the *Blood of his Croſs*, your Tears will be *wip'd away*, and your Sorrow turned into everlaſting Joys.—But ſee to it, that you are indeed *united* to Chriſt by Faith, and *devoted* to him by Love: Conſent to be *his* for ever, and take *Him* for thine, in all his *Offices* and on his own Terms; and let thy *Heart be glad, and thy Glory rejoice.*

Gracious *holy* Mourning, after a *godly Sort*, will *never* be repented of. Do you mourn *ſpiritually*? Is it for your Sins? A *godly* Sorrowing unto Repentance? Do you mourn after *Chriſt*, and Grace and Holineſs? After pardoning Grace and the Joy thereof? After *Communion* with God in every *Providence* and every Ordinance? And after the everlaſting *Viſion* and Enjoyment of Him in Heaven? "*Bleſſed* are they that *thus mourn* for they ſhall be *comforted.*

And ever remember, that as the LORD has *wept* for thee, ſo he has bled for thee: He ſhed his *Blood* which is more than *Tears*: You muſt *remember his Death* as he has appointed you: If when they ſaw him *weep*, they ſaid "*ſee how he loved him!* Go thou and ſhew forth his *dying*, and rather ſay ſo: Yea ſay, *ſee* how we ought to *love* him and remember *his Love!*—Did He go to the *Grave* of

his Friend to weep there? Go then to the *House and Table* of thy LORD, to pour out thy Soul to Him.

We have *much* to be forgiven us, and we ſhould *love much*, and *ſorrow* much for our Sins: Go in thy *Tears* to Chriſt and be much *beloved* of him. — "*Seeſt thou this Woman!* ſaid he of *One in her Tears*, with great *Complacency* in her Perſon and Penitence! And, "*Woman, why weepeſt thou?* ſaid he to *Mary* who was ſeeking him with *Tears*: The LORD will remember every Tear that is ſhed in the believing, penitent, thankful *Remembrance* of Him! And if he *look* upon the *Sinner* at his *Feet*, willing to *waſh 'em* with her Tears, and wipe 'em with her *Hair*, he will not fail to *ſay*.—"Let *all be forgiven* "*her, as ſhe loveth much! thy Faith hath ſaved thee*, "*go in Peace.* In a Word, we muſt get our Souls *waſhed white in the Blood of the Lamb*, as ever we hope to have *all Tears wip'd away from our Eyes.*

But I know you are expecting now, that I go into a more ſpecial *Application* of my *Subject* to the great and *general Mourning* of the *Town*, as well as of this *Church* and *Congregation* through the Week paſt, on the *ſudden Death* of your moſt dear and honoured PASTOR, the Reverend Mr. COOPER: — But with what Words can I repreſent or bewail the *Breach* which the moſt *wiſe*, moſt *holy*, moſt *gracious* SOVEREIGN GOD has made on us?—It is much like ſurpriſing and *aſtoniſhing* to us, as the dying of *Lazarus* was to his *Siſters*; after they had ſent to JESUS, ſaying, "LORD! *he whom thou loveſt is ſick.*

It is the great HEAD of the *Church*, the *Shepherd and Biſhop* of your Souls, that has taken away as

with

with a Stroke his faithful *Servant* to his Reward and *Crown*: And while *we* have been *overwhelm'd* this Week with *Grief*, *he* has had an *abundant Entrance* miniſtred to him into the *Joy* of his LORD; the *Fulneſs* of everlaſting Joys.

The Duty we now owe to GOD and our own *Souls*, is to *ſearch* and try our ſelves, and beg of GOD to ſhew us "wherefore he is thus contending with us? And to *turn* unto the LORD with Weeping and Supplication, and *rend* our Hearts before him.

I am a *Witneſs* to his *early*, ſerious and ſteddy Inclinations to ſerve GOD and his Generation, by his holy Will, in the Work of the *Miniſtry*; and that in his *Childhood* he was in this a *Timothy*, that he knew the *holy Scripture* and ſtudied his *Bible*, that he might be made *wiſe to Salvation*: All the while he paſſed his *School-learning*, and afterward at the *College*, his Soul appeared fix'd on *this*, as the *Needle to its Pole*; even (as I may ſay) without a *Tremor* or *Variation*.

He was *young* when GOD took away his *Father*, on his Voyage to *London*, but it ſurpriz'd his dear *Mother* and me, and many others, to ſee how *religiouſly* as well as tenderly he miniſter'd then to her *Conſolation*, through the Weeks and Months of her unſpeakable Grief. He was indeed a *Barnabas* already, a *Son of Conſolation* to her, through thoſe *dark* Hours.—Not a *Samuel* could have been more to *Hannah* on a like *Bereavement*, than our Child *Cooper* then was to his *lovely Mother*; the Woman (of whom I ſaid to you on her Death) that one would have *wiſh'd to be born of*.

She ſaw with unknown Pleaſure his Progreſs in *Learning* and *Scripture-Knowledge*; and gladly gave him his choſen Way, *lent him to the* LORD, gave him to ſerve *at the Door of the Tabernacle all the Days of his Life*. She could have ſaid with Truth and Fervency, "*for this Child I prayed, and the* LORD *has granted me my Petition!* — for ſhe kept her Chamber (I have heard) for *ſix* or more *Months* to preſerve him.

His *profiting* at *School* and *College* was remarkable like his *diligent* Study: it was his Pleaſure and Recreation to increaſe in *uſeful* Knowledge, while the *leſs* neceſſary Parts of Learning ſeem'd of *little* Account with him: He was always ſolid and *grave*, never the *dull* heavy or ſour, but ever cheerly, pleaſant and innocent.

He paſs'd his *Youth* without a *Spot* that I ever heard of; he affected none of the *Gayeties* of Childhood tho' enough in the Way of them; they ſeem'd no Temptation to him, and he put away *childiſh Things* while a Child.

He came out at once, to a very great Degree, a *perfect Preacher*, when he firſt appear'd in the *Pulpit* at *Cambridge*, as Mr. *Preſident* LEVERETT at the Time obſerv'd to me; and equally to the *Eſteem* and even Admiration of the *Miniſters of Boſton*, the Dr. MATHERS, Mr. PEMBERTON, &c.

On the Day that he heard the *firſt Sermon* that was preach'd in *this Houſe*, being then but *ſeven* Year old; he ſet himſelf to *read* like me as ſoon as he came Home; and I ought to *thank GOD* if I have ſerv'd any Way to the *forming him* for his ſince eminent *Pulpit-Services*, and in particular his

Method

Method of preaching CHRIST and *Scripture*: So a *Torch* may be light at a *Farthing-Candle*.

You all know that CHRIST has been the *Alpha* and *Omega* to him in all his *Sermons*; for he found HIM to be the *firſt* and the *laſt* through the *Oracles* of GOD, the *Beginning* and the *End* of Scripture: And this led him ſtrong into the *Calviniſtic Scheme* betimes, becauſe he judg'd it to be the very Scheme of the *Goſpel*: He ſoon grew much a *Maſter* in it, and accordingly has been very *zealous* for it, as the *Doctrine according to Godlineſs*, and the *Truth in* JESUS.

As he had been a *Child* of this Church from *ſeven* Year old, ſo the *Brethren* with a general Conſent concurred with me in my Deſire of calling him to the *Paſtoral Office* among us: And his natural Inclination to them and me, rather than to any other Settlement, was eaſy to be diſcerned.—Accordingly, he had near a *unanimous* Call, and with what *Solemnity* he gave himſelf to us *by the Will of GOD*, may be read in the printed Account of his *Ordination*.

With what Light and *Power* (by the Help of GOD) he has ſince continued to preach the *Doctrines* of Grace, with the *Laws* and *Motives* of the Goſpel, is known to you all; and he has finiſhed his Courſe as he began it, deſiring to know nothing among You *ſave* JESUS CHRIST *and him crucified*.

I early led him into all the *Families* of the Flock, the poorer and the rich, even before he was ordained; and how he has viſited them in their Sickneſſes, received their Viſits, directed your Conſciences,

ſciences, *warn'd the unruly, comforted the Feeble-minded, ſupported the weak*, is known to many of You, who have *flock'd* to him for Counſel in the late Months of *Conviction* and ſpiritual Diſtreſs, which have come upon us through the Power and *Mercy* of the *moſt* HIGH.

He has indeed appear'd to me *ſtrong in the Grace that is in* CHRIST JESUS; as he was *exhorted* in the Day of his *Ordination*; and from Year to Year waxing ſtronger and *ſtronger*, even to the Day of his Death! very much a *Paſtor after GOD's own Heart*; from *Love* to JESUS CHRIST feeding his *Sheep and Lambs*: This you have all ſeen in his abounding *Labours* for the Good of Souls both public and private.

[His *Sermons* were well ſtudied, *ſmelt of the Lamp*, and told us how well his *Head and Heart* had been labouring for us from Week to Week; and how intent his Mind and Deſire was, ſo to ſpeak to us in the Name of GOD, and from his *Oracles*, as might beſt inform our *Minds*, ſtrike our *Affections* and enter into our *Conſciences*.

But when he led us in *Prayers* and Supplication, *Praiſes* and Thankſgivings to GOD, in one *Adminiſtration* and another, more eſpecially of the *Sacraments of the New-Teſtament*, *Baptiſm* and the *Lord's Supper*; then his *Eminence* appear'd, in ſuch a *Flow*, *Propriety* and *Fulneſs*, as could not but often ſurprize the *intelligent* Worſhiper, and bear away the *ſpiritual* and truly devout as on *Angel's* Wings toward Heaven. He came near to the *Throne*, and filled his Mouth with *Arguments*; he was in his *Element*, and breathed his *native Air*; I mean that of the *New Creature*.]

In

In the *Pulpit* and out of it he was like *Phinehas*, "*Zealous for his* God, a faithful Reprover of Sin and earneſt to make *Atonement for it*; and if in any particular point I could not act with him, yet he evidently appeared to me to *act*, as he profeſs'd——" *as of Sincerity, in the Sight of God*, and as his *Conſcience* commanded him.

He neither ſought *Glory* of Men, nor *feared* the Faces of a Multitude, nor did the *Contempt* of Families terrify him: He was endow'd and form'd to *lead*, adviſe and execute, and indeed was not eaſily turn'd: He thought, judg'd and *fixt*, and then it was hard to *move* him.

God pleas'd greatly to *own* his Miniſtry, publick and private, for ſaving Good to Souls, and gave him many *Seals* of it, more eſpecially (as he judg'd) of late Years; in *whom* he had much Joy, and *they* a vaſt Honour and Reverence for him:—— And may they be his *Crown* in the Day of Christ.

He has been an *Honour* and Bleſſing to his *Country*, and his *Name* will remain in high *Eſteem* to future Times; more eſpecially with this *Church* and to his *own* Houſe; for whom his abundant and fervent *Prayers* have been aſcending daily, which I pray God may be returning on us, like the *Dew* and *Rain* on the tender and on the mown *Graſs*.

You have known his *Doctrine* and manner of *Life*, whoſe *Faith* follow, conſidering the *End* of his Converſation (as the *Apoſtle* ſpeaks, Heb. xiii. 7, 8, 9.) "Jesus Christ the *ſame* Yeſterday to Day "and for ever! and be not carried about with "diverſe and *ſtrange Doctrines*; for it is a good "thing that the Heart be *eſtabliſhed with Grace*, not "with

" with *Meats*, which have not profited them " that have been occupied therein. [There were in the *Apoſtles* Days, and ſo there are in *ours*, " things " of an *unſettling and diſtracting Nature* *, by which " the Hearts of *Chriſtians* are kept *fluctuating*, as " the *ſtrong Winds toſs* the Ships, and ſometimes " *drive* 'em from their *Anchors*, and *Split* 'em on " the *Rocks*." —— As the Apoſtle warns the *Hebrews* here, " not to ſeek *Eſtabliſhment* and Peace " in their *Profeſſion* of the Goſpel, by joining the " Obſervation of the *Ceremonial* Law with their " *Faith in Chriſt*, in order to their *Juſtification*, " *Sanctification*, and *Peace of Conſcience*; ſo let us equally be on our *Guard* againſt the Errors on the *Antinomian* Side, which by the Subtlety of Satan are *inſinuating* themſelves in too many Places thro' our *Provinces*, and in ſome Parts are threatning to *break* in like a *Flood* and Inundation: As Mr. *Tennent* has given faithful *Warning* to the Churches †.

Mr. *Cooper* was as fix'd and *firm* againſt the *Spirit of Separation* from the Churches of *New-England*, which he judg'd to be ſtrongly ſettled on the *Platform of Scripture*; as any *Rock* on our Coaſts is *unſhaken* by the furious *Waves* that only break themſelves into *Foam* by daſhing againſt it: And had he liv'd he would have been a moſt ſtrenuous *Oppoſer* of this Defection: But at the ſame Time he was immoveably *determined*, as we all know, that there *has been a remarkable Work of* GOD going on among us, by what he had *ſeen with his Eyes, had look'd upon, and* as it were *handled*, in the *Reſort* to Him (and ſome other *Miniſters* of the Town) of a *Multitude* of Per-

* *Henry* in loc.

† The Neceſſity of *holding faſt the Truth.*

ſons,

ſons, younger and older, under ſtrong *Convictions*, Humiliation, Illuminations, godly Fear, with *ſtrong Crying and Tears*; Faith, Hope, Truſt, Joy, with ſtrong *Reliance* on the *Righteouſneſs of* CHRIST for Juſtification, and on the ALMIGHTY SPIRIT of Grace in a *Sovereign manner to enable* them unto all the *Duties* of a ſober righteous and godly Life; to *work* in 'em both to *will* and to *do*, to *begin and carry on* his good Work in their Souls; and to *keep* them by his mighty Power thro' Faith to Salvation:——And among theſe there were *Numbers* overflowing with the *Joys and Comforts* of Religion, in the utmoſt *Abhorrence* of themſelves and repenting as *in duſt aſhes*; while the *Love of God* ſeem'd to be *ſhed abroad* in their Hearts, in their fervent *Deſires* after and *Pleaſure* in the Convictions and Converſion of others: —— The numerous *Inſtances* of this Nature, with whom he daily converſed, gave him abundant *Satisfaction* of the Preſence and Power of the SANCTIFIER and COMFORTER in and with many of them.

I think my ſelf alſo now called by the Providence of GOD to add,——that as I was my ſelf ſtruck with *Wonder* at what of *this* Nature occurr'd to me two Years ago among the *young People of this Flock*, ſo the good *Fruits* of their abiding Profeſſion unto this Day, in a diſcreet, meek, virtuous, *pious Converſation*, give me Satisfaction and Pleaſure in them from day to day; while their exemplary Face of grave *Devotion*, and diligent *Attention* to the Word of GOD, on *Lords-days* and *Lectures*, are alſo *adorning to the Doctrine of* GOD *their* SAVIOUR:——May they be only *excited*, by my ſaying this, to a more *humble* circumſpect Behaviour, with Care, Prayer and *Fear*, leaſt they yet *fail* of *the Grace of* GOD *in Truth*. —— "You are

" *Witneſſes* and GOD alſo, how *holily* and *juſtly*
" your dear deceaſed *Paſtor* behav'd towards you;
" affectionately *deſirous* of you and willing to have
" *imparted* his *own Soul* to you with the Goſpel,
" becauſe you were *dear to* him; you know how
" he *exhorted* and *comforted* and *charged* every one
" of you, *as a Father his Children*; that you
" *walk worthy of* GOD, who hoth called you to his
" Kingdom and Glory, I. *Theſſ.* ii. 7, — 12.]

Mr. COOPER's *Fame* for Piety and Learning, Zeal for GOD and Care for Souls, was juſt ſpreading abroad, and bringing him into a large Correſpondence with Perſons of like *Character*, not only thro' our *American* Provinces, but alſo in *Great-Britain*: And the Tydings of his *Death* will be an unknown *Grief* to many worthy Perſons *abroad*, as well as unto us who knew his *Face*, and have ſat under his *Miniſtry*.

He is gone from us in the *prime* of Life and Uſefulneſs, while his Strength was *firm*, promiſing many more Years of Service: Yet *twenty Years* paſt, and more, he was wont to tell me, that he expected to die before *forty* or *fifty*, as the Houſe of his *Father* generally had done before him: And but a few *Weeks* paſt he ſaid to ſeveral Perſons in the *Town*, and to *ſome* here preſent, that *Dr. Colman would live to bury him!* — How far from your Heart or *mine* was any ſuch *Tho't!* for with him I had depoſited my *Will*, in Hopes he might have liv'd to be a *Father unto mine* after my Deceaſe! And as to my *Truſts* from abroad, I had inform'd the kind *Donors* Years ago, in how good and *faithful* and wiſe a Hand I ſhould leave their Bounties, by the Will of GOD! — but how are my *Purpoſes broken?* even the *Tho'ts of my Heart*! the wiſeſt and *beſt* of them!

and

and where is now my *Hope*? who ſhall *ſee* it? — GOD performeth the Thing that is *appointed* for me, and *many* ſuch Things are with HIM! therefore I am *troubled*, at his Preſence, and when I conſider I am *afraid* of Him! — GOD maketh my Heart *ſoft* and the ALMIGHTY troubleth me! — I dare not *go on*, and ſay with *Job*, *becauſe I was not cut off before the Darkneſs!* but this I can truly *ſay*, (as I ſaid in *Tears* over the dear *Remains* on the Day of its Interment) that had I the like *Confidence* of my own *actual Readineſs to be offer'd*, I had much rather for *your Sake* and the *Churches* thro' the Land, have choſen to die in *his Stead*; might he have *liv'd* to my Years and ſerv'd on to the Glory of GOD.

But *what ſhall I ſay*? He hath awfully *ſpoken to me*, and *himſelf hath done it*! I will go *ſoftly* in the *Bitterneſs* of my Soul! yet *ſtirring up* (by GOD's Help) the poor Remain of *the Gift that is in me*! for GOD has not given us the *Spirit of Fear*, but of *Power* and of *Love* and of a *ſound Mind*!——through your *Prayer* may this be renewed to *me*! and may the LORD grant it to you all, that we may not be *aſhamed of the Teſtimony of the Lord!* but chuſe to be *Partakers of the Afflictions of the Goſpel, by the Power of* GOD; And may the merciful and gracious GOD in his Time *repair the Breach.*

The *Reſidue of the Spirit* is with HIM! he can yet *revive us* and make us to *live in his Sight!* he can renew our Days as *of old*, and give you ſuch another *Paſtor* after his own Heart! to feed you with Knowledge and Underſtanding! Pray ye therefore the LORD *of the Harveſt to thruſt forth Labourers into his Harveſt!* O aſk this with great Humiliation and ſtrong Faith! daily and weekly,

every Family and Perſon *apart*, and alſo *together* with united Hearts, in the ſtrongeſt *Bands* of mutual Love, let us beſeige the *Throne* of our *aſcended* compaſſionate SAVIOUR, for another like *precious Gift* from Him, as we have once received, *unworthy* as we then were.

And O might every *Candidate* for the Work of the *Miniſtry* among us, be in like manner *looking unto* JESUS to be *endued from on High!* and may the *Ever-Bleſſed and Eternal* SPIRIT who has condeſcended to *reſt*, in very diſtinguiſhing Meaſures of *Light and Zeal*, on not a few of our aſcended *Fathers* in Times paſt, form many *Eliſha*'s to ſucceed hereafter! and *divide the Waters* before them.

More particularly, may the *Sons* of the DECEASED riſe up *in the Spirit of their Father*, for ſpecial Services to GOD in their Generation, and be publick Bleſſings! may they devote themſelves to ſerve CHRIST in the World, and cry to Him *my* FATHER, *be thou the Guide of my Youth! my Fathers* GOD *and I will exalt him!*

May the moſt *afflicted* and *comforted* CONSORT of our dear *Paſtor* find the *Conſolations of* GOD yet more abounding to her! may ſhe caſt her *Burthen* on the LORD, and find his *Everlaſting Arms* underneath her! may ſhe *continue in Faith* and Prayer, and find a gracious Deliverance in her *Hour* before her! may the JOY OF THE LORD which has been her *ſtrength* in burying her Dead, ſtill be ſo in the Hour of *Travel!* and ſhe with her *Seed* (by the Grace of GOD) *live* ſo as to honour the Memory of the *Dead* in Times long to come.

In

In a ſpecial Manner may that Son of the Family, who has devoted himſelf to the *Work of the Miniſtry* by the Will of God, and is purſuing his Evangelical *Studies* for that End, be graciouſly accepted of God, and aſſiſted in them; have his Heart fix'd and ſettled on right *Principles* and on right Ends; to miniſter unto the Lord as long as he lives, like a devoted *Samuel*; that he may both *ſave himſelf* and the Souls of others. May he ever have the *Example* of his *Father* before his Eyes day and night: May *He* and the other *Children* never forget his Counſels, Charges and Prayers for 'em: May he improve the ſingular *Advantages* he has above others, to come eminently *furniſh'd* for Service to the Church of Christ, by his being *Heir* to the ſacred *Treaſure* of his Father's Writings; and ever piouſly remember of *Whom* he has received them! and the Lord God *of his Father* bleſs him, and make him *humble, ſerious* and a *Bleſſing*.

And now my dear People, the *Families* of this *bereaved Flock!* what *Words* ſhall I chuſe wherein to *bemoan* and comfort you! "I commend you "to God and unto the *Word of his Grace* which "is able to *keep* you, to *build* you up, and to "give you *an Inheritance among all them that are "ſanctified*.

I thank God for all the *Honour and Affection* which you have always ſhewn to your deceaſed *Paſtor* from the firſt Day of his coming to You in the Name of the Lord, and now more eſpecially at his *Death*. You have honour'd your ſelves before all the *Churches* in your great and *univerſal* Sorrowing under the Stroke of God's Hand! and I truſt it has been a *godly Sorrowing, to Repentance*,

tance, with many of you; and *will* be ſo more and more to You and *yours!* may the LORD return into your *Boſome*, and to your *Children*, all the Affection you *have* expreſſed, or may *yet* expreſs to the Memory of the DECEASED, and to his *Houſe*. —— Well did you chuſe to go *in long Proceſſion*, the *higher* and the *leſs* together, before *his* DUST to the Grave, *who* has *gone* before You in a *ſhining Path* to the Heavenly Glory; and *done* ſo much while he liv'd to *carry* you and yours thither.

But O the *poor* and *ſick* of the *Flock*! what will you do? now *He* is gone that was ſo *able* and willing to *viſit* you; and knew where to *find* you, when you ſent your *Notes*. How little can the Breach be repair'd to *you*, 'till GOD raiſe you ſome *other* Miniſter, alike able and ſpirited! my Heart bleeds for the *Sick* now their tender *Phyſician* is dead! ——— but CHRIST the Healer of Souls is *alive* and preſent for Evermore! and the *Word of the Lord* in your *Houſes* and Hearts *endures* for ever! and I doubt not but the *dear Miniſters* of the other Churches, who live neareſt to you, will kindly *viſit* and ſerve you upon your aſking them.

Finally, GOD loudly calls us all into the *ſolemn Enquiry*, each *One* reſpecting himſelf! — "What "is the *Voice of* GOD in this Providence to *me* "*and mine!* —— O how faithfully have we been taught the *Truth as it is in Jeſus!* how often and awfully have we been *warn'd* by the Lips of the *Deceaſed*, that he *had not ſhunned to declare to us the whole Counſel of GOD*! that he had *deliver'd his own Soul!* as *Moſes* went up into the Mount to *die*, after he had left *this* among his

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laſt Words: "Behold I have ſet before you "*Life and Death*, the *Bleſſing* aud the *Curſe!* that "you may *chuſe Life.*" —— How often has he clos'd his *awful Sermons* to us with like Words to thoſe of the SPIRIT *unto the Churches*, by the *Pen of the Apoſtle of Charity*, *the Beloved of* JESUS, St. *John*: "Remember how you have *received*, "and *heard*, and *hold faſt*, and *repent*! and if thou "ſhalt not *watch* I will come upon thee as a "*Thief*, and thou ſhalt not know *what Hour* I "will come upon thee! ——— behold I come "*quickly*, hold faſt that thou *haſt*, let no Man "take thy *Crown!* Him that *overcometh* will I "*make a Pillar* in the *Temple* of my GOD, and "write upon him the *Name* of my *GOD.*

So the LORD *has done* by your bleſſed PASTOR, and thus He ſpeaks to *us* from Heaven in his *Death!* and the *Lord* grant to us now much of the bleſſed Influences of his HOLY SPIRIT, that we may *keep the Word of his Patience*, and that he may *keep us* in this *Hour of Temptation* that is come upon us, to *try* us. [The whole *Church of Chriſt* ſeems to be in its *laſt*, the *Ladicean* State; let us *judge* our ſelves whether it be not *ours!* may the moſt *gracious* part of that *laſt Epiſtle* to the Churches come *upon us*, and may the *other* be prevented by the free and *Sovereign* Mercy of our GOD: "As many as I *love*, "I *rebuke* and chaſten! be *zealous* therefore and "repent! behold I ſtand at the *Door* and knock! "if any Man *hear* my Voice, and *open* the Door, "I will come in and *ſup* with him and he with "*Me. He that hath an Ear, let him hear what* "*the* SPIRIT *ſaith unto the Churches.*]

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My *Brethren*, the *Voice* of GOD to us this Day is, that we *humble our ſelves greatly* under his holy *Hand*, which has brought us *low*, into the very *Duſt of Death!* that he may raiſe and *exalt* us in his due Time.

At the ſame time GOD calls us to *give Glory* and thanks to his Name, that he was pleas'd to give us *ſuch a Miniſter!* to endow ſuch a One *for us* from on High! that He has made him what he *has been* to us and others! that He has *continued him* ſo long to us and to the *Town!* that it has pleas'd Him of his free Grace to make him ſo *extenſive* a Bleſſing, and to ſo *many* of late under the *Impreſſions* of the *Word* upon their Souls.

And now let us examine and *judge our ſelves*, each one in *ſecret*, and refrain from judging *others*, ——— what *we* may have done to *forfeit* the Continuance of his Life and Miniſtry! to *provoke* the *Holy* GOD to take him from us! by not duely *priſing* his Miniſtry, or not *profiting* under it as we ought! which alas! *who* of us have duely done?

GOD calls us therefore to *hear the Rod and Him that hath appointed it!* to hearken to the loud Voice of the *Angel flying* in the midſt of *Heaven*, with the *Everlaſting Goſpel* in his Hand, to *preach* unto all them that dwell on the Earth, unto every *Nation* and Kindred, People and Tongue; "*Fear* "GOD *and give Glory* to Him, for the *Hour* of "his Judgment is coming on! and let it not be ſaid of us, "they *repented not*, to give "him Glory! —— The awful Voice of GOD

to us in this *Providence* is *that*, Jerem. xiii. 16. *Give Glory to the* LORD *your* GOD *before he cauſe Darkneſs, and before your Feet ſtumble on the dark Mountains, and while ye look for Light he turn it into the Shadow of Death and make it groſs Darkneſs.*

We are call'd to the moſt profound *Submiſſion* under the *mighty Hand* of GOD! to reſign and *hold our Peace*, as *Aaron* did, and the LORD was *ſanctified*, (i.e. glorified) by him *before all the People*, on the ſolemn and *dreadful* Day! or as *Eli* long after, in a yet more *trying* Caſe anſwer'd, "*It is* "*the* LORD, *let Him do what ſeemeth him good!* or as *David* teaches us, Pſalm, xxxix. *I was dumb, I open'd not my Mouth, becauſe thou didſt it.*

But O how *wide* did he open his Mouth *in Prayer*, at the ſame Time? And ſo muſt we! each *one* for himſelf and Houſhold, and *all* for one another! —— and *for me* (my Brethren) in a more ſpecial manner, in my *Age* and manifold *Infirmities* both of Body and Mind. Your *Prayers* I wou'd earneſtly beſpeak, in the Words of the *Apoſtle* to the *Romans*, xv. 30. "Now I *beſeech* you "Brethren, for the LORD JESUS CHRIST's *ſake*, "*and for the Love of the* SPIRIT, that ye *ſtrive* "together with me, in your *Prayers* to GOD for "me; that I may yet come to you with *Joy* "and be *refreſhed*; (which I thank GOD I am this mournful Day, by that *endearing* Concern and *Diſtreſs* for me, which I think you are *univerſally* expreſſing! which ought to *encourage my Heart* and *ſtrengthen my Hands*, in a humble Reliance on GOD to be *going on* in the Service of your Faith. "*Now alſo when I am old and grey-headed*, "*O* GOD *forſake me not!*

Finally, and to have done, —— Let *every One* of us, the *Elder* and *Younger*, the *greater and the leſs*, prepare to *die*; and to die *ſuddenly* and *inſenſibly* if GOD calls us to it. An *eaſie* and *happy* kind of dying to the gracious, heavenly and *prepared Soul*, whom GOD pleaſes thus to take away! as *two* now of my moſt *intimate* Acquaintance, and moſt *pious* in Life, have lately gone into the *Arms of Angels* *, without knowing that they were leaving the Body! —— but O how much to be *dreaded* and yet *apprehended* is ſuch a ſort of dying by ſecure and impenitent *Sinners*, the ungodly and profane! who may well pray—— "*from ſudden Death good* LORD *deliver me!* or rather, "*for it* good LORD *prepare me*, by a ſaving *Change of Heart and Life* paſſing on me.

O how *few*, how few among the Sons and Daughters of Men, among the profeſſed *Diſciples* of JESUS CHRIST, *Miniſters or People*, are in that habitual and *actual Readineſs* for Death, which a ſudden and *inſenſible* dying calls for, that it may be *ſafe and joyful!* yet who of *us* is there but may be *called* to it? we know not the *Day or Hour*. How tender, wiſe and gracious, as well as how *abundant* are the *Warnings* given us by our LORD JESUS in the holy *Goſpels*, and by his *Apoſtles* in their *Epiſtles* to the Churches; "*Watch therefore*, for ye know "not when your LORD *cometh!* let your Loins be "be *girt*, and your *Lamps burning*, and be ye as Men "that *wait* for their LORD! that in whatever *Hour* "*of the Night* he comes, he may find you *ready!* "bleſſed is *that Servant*.

* Mrs. ROWE of *Frome*, and Mr. COOPER.

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The LORD himſelf gave us this *Example* in the Days of his Fleſh, "*I muſt work the Work of* "*Him that ſent me while it is Day, the Night cometh* "*wherein no Man can work!* "*I walk to day and* "*to morrow, and on the third Day I ſhall be perfect-*"*ed! When* JESUS *therefore knew that his Hour* "*was come!*—— HE knew his Time to an *Hour*, we know not the Hour nor the *Day*, nor is it *fit* we ſhould.

Upon all, O let us *pray* and labour after a *State of Aſſurance!* the comfortable *Evidences* of the *regenerate* State, in the bleſſed and abiding *Fruits* of it. —— Your deceaſed *Paſtor* had it, and has in private told *ſome* of you, with a loving Air of *Reproof*, that you might more attain it, if you were *ſtriving* for it *lawfully*. —— *Job* in his deadly Griefs *knew that his* REDEEMER *lived*, and though after his *Skin Worms deſtroyed his Body, yet in his Fleſh he ſhould ſee GOD, and his Eyes ſhould behold him*: And bleſſed *Saint Paul* could write to his *Friends*, "I am "*ready to be offered*, now the Time of my *De*-"*parture* is at hand! I have *fought* a good "Fight, I have *finiſhed* my Courſe, I have *kept* "the Faith; and henceforth there is laid up "for me the *Crown of Righteouſneſs* which the "righteous JUDGE will give me at that Day; "and not to *me* only, but to *all* thoſe that *love* "*his Appearing*.

But you muſt then *pray* hard, repent much, be ſtrong in *Faith*, and love much; *work* hard, *praiſe* and give Thanks, walk cloſely with GOD in *ſecret*, and watch unto *relative* Duties; work *Righteouſneſs* and be *rejoicing* therein, remembring

GOD in *his Ways:* And thus be giving *Diligence* to make your *Calling and Election ſure*: Work out therefore your *Salvation with Fear and Trembling*, humbly *relying* on the SPIRIT OF GRACE, and *applying* to Him to *work in you both to will and to do, of his good Pleaſure.* And GOD is able to make all Grace to *abound to you*, and to give you an *All-ſufficiency* (a moſt *ſtrange* and *glorious* Word) in all Things, to *your abounding* in every good Word and Work: *Amen.* —— May the GOD *of all Grace*, who has *called you to his eternal Glory by* JESUS CHRIST; after you have *ſuffered a while*, make you *perfect, ſtabliſh, ſtrengthen, ſettle you*, and to *his Name be Glory* for ever. And be *confident* of this very Thing, that *He* who has *begun* his good Work, will *perform* it to the *Day of* CHRIST: which bleſſed *Day* you muſt be *looking for*, and *haſtning unto*, by Faith and Prayer, and in all *holy* Converſation and Godlineſs.

But be ſure not to *take up* with a few *warm Workings* of Affection, which may be ſudden and tranſient; but ſee to it that the *Work* in Heart and Life be ſolid, deep, abiding; even, calm, enduring, in *all the Fruits of Righteouſneſs, which are through* JESUS CHRIST *unto the Praiſe and Glory of GOD.* For the *righteous* ſhall *hold on* their Way, and they that have *clean* Hands wax *ſtronger* and ſtronger.

Take up your *Croſs* daily, and never be *weary* nor faint in your Minds; but be looking unto JESUS the Author and Finiſher of your Faith; that of his *Fulneſs*, in whom it hath pleaſed the FATHER

FATHER all ſhould dwell, you alſo may *receive and Grace for Grace.*

Now unto HIM *that is of Power to ſtabliſh you according to the Goſpel, and the preaching of* JESUS CHRIST : *according to the Revelation of the Myſtery, which was kept ſecret ſince the World began; but now is made manifeſt from the Scriptures of the Prophets, according to the Commandment of the everlaſting GOD, made known to all Nations for the Obedience of Faith ; to GOD only wiſe be Glory through* JESUS CHRIST *for ever. Amen.*

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